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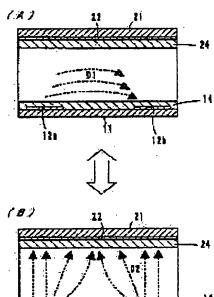
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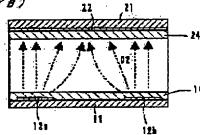
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(54) LIQUID CRYSTAL DISPLAY DEVICE

(57)Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To obtain a liquid crystal display device in which a driving voltage in renewing a picture is low and also in which a changing efficiency in performing the phase transition of the liquid crystal from a focal conic state to a planar state is satisfactory. SOLUTION: The liquid crystal display device performs display by holding chiral nematic liquid crystal whose anisotropy of dielectric constant is positive between a substrate 11 provided with electrodes 12a, 12b and a substrate 21 provided with an electrode 22 and by utilizing selected reflection of the liquid crystal. When a longitudinal electric field D2 being roughly vertical to surfaces of the substrates is generated among the electrodes 12a, 12b and the electrode 22, the liquid crystal becomes to be in a focal conic state in which its helical axis is vertical to the longitudinal electric field D2. At this time, when a transverse electric field D1 being roughly parallel with surfaces of the substrates is generated between the electrodes 12a, 12b, the liquid





crystal becomes a planar state in which its helical axis is vertical to the transverse electric field D1. An alignment processing for making the helical axis coincide with the direction of the transverse electric field D1 is applied to an alignment control film in order to promote the change to the planar state. Moreover, in changing the liquid crystal to the planar state, a transverse electric field D1 having the intensity of the extent that it loosens the twist of the liquid crystal can be applied to the liquid crystal.

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CLAIMS

[Claim(s)]

[Claim 1] The liquid crystal display mostly characterized by having the orientation control means which makes the helical shaft of said liquid crystal which is in the electrode which can be impressed, and a focal conic condition alternatively about a perpendicular direction and almost parallel electric field in agreement in the sense of almost parallel electric field to a substrate to the substrate of a pair, the liquid crystal in which it is pinched between said substrates and the cholesteric phase whose dielectric constant anisotropy is forward is shown, and said substrate. [Claim 2] The liquid crystal display according to claim 1 characterized by the electric field impressed almost in parallel to a substrate in case said liquid crystal is changed from a focal conic condition to a planar condition being what makes the spiral pitch of liquid crystal longer than the spiral pitch in a focal conic condition.

[Claim 3] Said orientation control means is a liquid crystal display according to claim 1 or 2 characterized by being the orientation control film with which at least one side was given among rubbing processing or photo alignment processing.

[Claim 4] The substrate of a pair, and the liquid crystal in which it is pinched between said substrates and the cholesteric phase whose dielectric constant anisotropy is forward is shown. As opposed to said substrate mostly a perpendicular direction and almost parallel electric field alternatively The electrode which can be impressed. The liquid crystal display characterized by the electric field impressed almost in parallel to a substrate in case a preparation and said liquid crystal are changed from a focal conic condition to a planar condition being what makes the spiral pitch of liquid crystal longer than the spiral pitch in a focal conic condition.

[Claim 5] Claim 1 characterized by having further the driving means which drives by impressing an electrical potential difference to said electrode, claim 2, a liquid crystal display according to claim 3 or 4.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[Detailed Description of the Invention]

[0001]

[Field of the Invention] This invention relates to the liquid crystal display which pinches a liquid crystal display and the liquid crystal in which a cholesteric phase is shown, and displays between the substrates of a pair especially using the selective reflection of this liquid crystal.

[0002]

[Background of the Invention] In recent years, various liquid crystal display components are developed and offered. In it, in order that a reflective mold liquid crystal display component may display by reflecting ambient light (external light), it can be displayed by little power consumption compared with the transparency mold liquid crystal display component which needs a back light, and is adopted as displays, such as a cellular phone and mobile computing devices, taking advantage of this advantage. Moreover, researches and developments of the further low-power-izing are also done briskly, and the reflective mold liquid crystal display component which has memory nature is proposed.

[0003]

[Description of the Prior Art] It is indicated by the 29th volume (SID International Symposium Digestof Technical Paper) of a technical paper SID international symposium JUMU epitome, and 897 pages as a mode of operation of a reflective mold liquid crystal display component which has memory nature. This mode of operation is a method which displays by switching the orientation condition of a chiral nematic liquid crystal to either a planar condition (selective reflection condition of light), and a focal conic condition (transparency condition of light). A planar condition and a focal conic condition maintain the condition semipermanently, unless external force will be added once it sets liquid crystal to one of conditions since it is in a respectively stable condition. That is, the image displayed even if it turned off the power, once it displayed the image is useful as a reflective mold liquid crystal display component equipped with the memory nature maintained as it is.

[0004] The reflective mold liquid crystal display component indicated by said reference is the configuration which pinched the chiral nematic liquid crystal which has a forward dielectric constant anisotropy between the substrates of the pair equipped with the electrode, respectively, and changes liquid crystal to a predetermined condition (a planar condition and focal conic condition) by making electric field act perpendicularly to a substrate, and controlling the reinforcement and/or impression time amount of the electric field by the electrode. [0005] enough for liquid crystal in the electrical potential difference more than the threshold voltage for dispelling the torsion — if time amount impression is carried out, all liquid crystal will be in a HOMEOTORO pick condition (the direction of a major axis of a liquid crystal molecule is a perpendicular condition to a substrate). Liquid crystal will become a distorted array if electric field are eliminated, since this condition does not have memory nature. When electric field are eliminated rapidly, it will be in a planar condition from a HOMEOTORO pick condition, and when electric field are eliminated gradually, it will be in a focal conic condition.

[0006] Moreover, when the pulse voltage more than the threshold voltage for dispelling the torsion (electrical potential difference of the pulse width from which some liquid crystal will be in a HOMEOTORO pick condition) is impressed to the liquid crystal of a focal conic condition, the liquid crystal which changed into the HOMEOTORO pick condition will be in a planar condition after impression termination of a pulse voltage. By controlling the width of face of a pulse voltage, and/or the height of an electrical potential difference, the rate of the liquid crystal which will be in a planar condition can be adjusted (halftone is displayed).

[0007]

[Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention] However, in said liquid crystal display component using a chiral nematic liquid crystal, it has the trouble that the driver voltage at the time of renewal of an image is high. That is, although a chiral nematic liquid crystal shows 50% of reflection factor theoretically, when a liquid crystal layer is thin, it falls to less than 50%. In especially the liquid crystal that carries out selective reflection of the red with a long spiral pitch, decline in a reflection factor is remarkable. Therefore, it is necessary to set up thickly the thickness (thickness of the liquid crystal layer which performs red selective reflection especially) of a liquid crystal layer so that sufficient reflection factor may be obtained, and driver voltage becomes high as the result.

[0008] Then, this invention persons considered utilization by the drive approach of impressing alternatively a perpendicular direction and almost parallel electric field mostly to a substrate, and changing the condition of liquid crystal. By this drive approach, vertical electric field perpendicular to a substrate side are impressed, for every pixel which should display an image after resetting liquid crystal collectively in the focal conic condition, horizontal electric field parallel to a substrate side are impressed, and liquid crystal is changed to a planar condition. According to this drive approach, it becomes a configuration advantageous to reducing driver voltage by making the inter-electrode distance which impresses horizontal electric field approach as much as possible on processing, without reducing a reflection factor.

[0009] However, by said drive approach, it became clear that the change effectiveness at the time of carrying out phase transition from a focal conic condition to a planar condition is low.

[0010] Then, the purpose of this invention has the change effectiveness from a focal conic condition to a planar condition in offering a good liquid crystal display low [the driver voltage at the time of renewal of an image].

[0011]

[The configuration, an operation, and effectiveness] of invention In order to attain the above purpose, the liquid crystal display concerning the 1st invention The substrate of a pair, and the liquid crystal in which it is pinched between these substrates and the cholesteric phase whose dielectric constant anisotropy is forward is shown, It is characterized by having the orientation control means which makes the helical shaft of said liquid crystal which is in the electrode which can be impressed, and a focal conic condition alternatively about a perpendicular direction and almost parallel electric field mostly in agreement with the sense of almost parallel electric field to a substrate to said substrate.

[0012] Moreover, the liquid crystal in which the liquid crystal display concerning the 2nd invention is pinched between the substrate of a pair, and this substrate, and the cholesteric phase whose dielectric constant anisotropy is forward is shown, As opposed to said substrate mostly a perpendicular direction and almost parallel electric field alternatively. The electrode which can be impressed, The electric field impressed almost in parallel to a substrate in case a preparation and said liquid crystal are changed from a focal conic condition to a planar condition are characterized by being what makes the spiral pitch of liquid crystal longer than the spiral pitch in a focal conic condition.

[0013] If a dielectric constant anisotropy impresses an electrical potential difference high enough to the liquid crystal in which a forward cholesteric phase is shown, torsion of a liquid crystal molecule will be cleared and it will be suitable in the direction in which the direction of electric field and a helical shaft cross at right angles. A threshold exists in the electrical potential difference which torsion of a liquid crystal molecule solves. Moreover, if the electrical potential difference below threshold voltage is impressed, liquid crystal will be suitable in the direction in which the electric-field impression direction and a helical shaft cross at right angles, without dispelling torsion.

[0014] Thus, by changing the impression direction of electric field, the helical shaft of liquid crystal can change almost perpendicularly and almost horizontally to a substrate, and liquid crystal can be directly changed between a planar condition and a focal conic condition. Moreover, if the electrical potential difference below said threshold voltage is impressed, without passing through a HOMEOTORO pick condition, liquid crystal can change directly between a

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planar condition and a focal conic condition, and can be conventionally driven by the low battery. In this case, in order not to pass through a HOMEOTORO pick condition at the time of renewal of an image, the whole screen becomes black momentarily and the fault image quality deteriorates is not produced.

[0015] by the way, in the liquid crystal display component in which an orientation control film be prepared, although the helical shaft be usually almost parallel to a substrate side, when the liquid crystal in a focal conic condition be observe superficially, even if helical shaft orientation be random and this point impress horizontal electric field parallel to a substrate side, no liquid crystal molecules change to a planar condition, but it be think that change effectiveness be the bad cause.

[0016] So, in the liquid crystal display concerning the 1st invention, since it was made to make the helical shaft of the liquid crystal in a focal conic condition in agreement with the sense of almost parallel electric field to a substrate by the orientation control means, horizontal electric field are considered to act in more liquid crystal molecules effectively, the change effectiveness to the planar condition of liquid crystal improves, and, as a result, the reflection factor in a planar condition rises.

[0017] As for said orientation control means, it is desirable to use the orientation control film by which could use the orientation control film which performed various orientation processings, and rubbing processing was carried out, or the orientation control film by which photo alignment processing was carried out.

[0018] Moreover, in the liquid crystal display concerning the 2nd invention, when changing liquid crystal from a focal conic condition to a planar condition, in order for the electric field impressed almost in parallel to a substrate to make the spiral pitch of liquid crystal longer than the spiral pitch in a focal conic condition, torsion will be in the condition that it was able to solve partially or completely, and torsion arises at the moment of impression of electric field being stopped, and it will be in a planar condition. Such a change of state changes the helical shaft of more liquid crystal perpendicularly mostly to a substrate, its change effectiveness to the planar condition of liquid crystal improves, and, as a result, the reflection factor in a planar condition rises. [0019] Moreover, the focus of said the 1st and 2nd invention may be combined. That is, in case it has the orientation control means which makes the helical shaft of the liquid crystal in a focal conic condition in agreement with the sense of almost parallel electric field to a substrate and liquid crystal is changed from a focal conic condition to a planar condition, you may constitute so that the electric field impressed almost in parallel to a substrate may make the spiral pitch of liquid crystal longer than the spiral pitch in a focal conic condition. Now, the change effectiveness to the planar condition of liquid crystal improves more, and the reflection factor in a planar condition rises more.

[0020] in the liquid crystal display concerning the 1st and 2nd invention, it has been arranged in a mutually different flat-surface location on the same substrate at said electrode — the electrode of a lot may be contained at least. It can make inter-electrode [of this lot] generate horizontal electric field easily. As an example of such an electrode, the ctenidium-like electrode of the lot arranged at the nest can be mentioned.

[0021] Furthermore, the liquid crystal display concerning the 1st and 2nd invention can be equipped with the driving means which drives by impressing an electrical potential difference to said electrode.

[0022]

[Embodiment of the Invention] Hereafter, the operation gestalt of the liquid crystal display concerning this invention is explained with reference to an accompanying drawing. [0023] (Refer to theoretic explanation and <u>drawing 1</u>) The liquid crystal in which a cholesteric phase is shown as a display medium is used for the liquid crystal display concerning this invention, and its chiral nematic liquid crystal is typical as this kind of liquid crystal. [0024] A chiral nematic liquid crystal is obtained by adding the chiral material of the specified quantity to a nematic liquid crystal. As shown in <u>drawing 1</u> (A), generally as for this chiral nematic liquid crystal, the rod-like liquid crystal molecule shows nothing and a cholesteric phase for the distorted array. When light carried out incidence to this liquid crystal and light carries out

incidence from an parallel direction to a helical shaft, selective reflection of the light of the wavelength shown by lambda=np is carried out (planar condition). Here, lambda is the distance (it is hereafter described as a spiral pitch) in which wavelength and n can twist the average refractive index of a liquid crystal molecule, and p has twisted 360 degrees of liquid crystal molecules. On the other hand, when light carries out incidence from a perpendicular direction to a helical shaft, light is penetrated, without reflecting substantially (focal conic condition). A display is performed using this selective reflection and transparency. In addition, the cholesteric phase of liquid crystal is shown also like drawing 1 (B).

[0025] By the way, although the liquid crystal molecule is cylindrical, it has the anisotropy from which a refractive index and a dielectric constant differ in the longitudinal direction (major axis) and a direction (minor axis) perpendicular to it. A dielectric constant anisotropy calls liquid crystal with larger refractive index and dielectric constant of the direction of a major axis of a liquid crystal molecule than them of the direction of a minor axis forward liquid crystal. On the other hand, a dielectric constant anisotropy calls liquid crystal with the dielectric constant of the direction of a major axis smaller than that of the direction of a minor axis negative liquid crystal more greatly [the refractive index of the direction of a major axis of a liquid crystal molecule] than that of the direction of a minor axis.

[0026] If a dielectric constant anisotropy impresses an electrical potential difference high enough to forward liquid crystal, torsion will be cleared, and it moves so that the major axis (shaft with a large dielectric constant) of a liquid crystal molecule may be suitable in the direction parallel to the direction of electric field. A threshold exists in the electrical potential difference which this torsion solves, and threshold voltage is set to Vh.

[0027] Moreover, if an electrical potential difference lower than said threshold voltage Vh is impressed to liquid crystal, liquid crystal will move, without dispelling torsion so that a helical shaft may be suitable in the perpendicular direction to the direction of electric field. A threshold exists also in the electrical potential difference to which this helical shaft is moved, and this threshold voltage is set to Vf.

[0028] The relation of such threshold voltage Vh and Vf is Vf<Vh. Moreover, even if it impresses an electrical potential difference lower than threshold voltage Vf to liquid crystal, a liquid crystal molecule does not move, namely, helical shaft orientations do not change.

[0029] (Refer to the 1st operation gestalt and drawing 2) The liquid crystal display component 1 which is the 1st operation gestalt As shown in drawing 2, Electrodes 12a and 12b and the orientation control film 14 which have been arranged in a flat-surface location which is mutually different in the lower substrate 11 are prepared. An electrode 22 and the orientation control film 24 are formed in the upper substrate 21, and it consists of a configuration which pinched the substrate 11 and the chiral nematic liquid crystal prepared as chiral material was added to a nematic liquid crystal and a room temperature showed a cholesteric phase to it among 21. In drawing 2, several [of the pixel of one unit / 1/] is shown roughly.

[0030] A dielectric constant anisotropy will be forward, as liquid crystal, if a room temperature shows a cholesteric phase, various things can be used, typically, chiral material will be added to a nematic liquid crystal, and the chiral nematic liquid crystal in which the cholesteric-liquid-crystal phase was shown at the room temperature will be used. The addition of chiral material can be used as 8 - 45% of the weight of the cholesteric-liquid-crystal constituent whole [for example,]. as a commercial thing — the liquid crystallinity compounds MLC6080 (Merck Co. make) and EV31 -- LV (Merck Co. make) and MN9014 (Chisso Corp. make) are alike, respectively, and it is independent about the chiral material R-811, R-1011, and CB15 (Merck Co. make) -- it is -what combined and carried out specified quantity addition can be used.

[0031] Various things, such as plastic film, such as glass, polyether sulfone (PES), polyethylene terephthalate (PET), and a polycarbonate (PC), can be used for the ingredient of substrates 11 and 21. A lightweight and thin thing is desirable. Transparent electrode ingredients, such as ITO and IZO, can be used for the ingredient of electrodes 12a, 12b, and 22, and it may use nontransparent electrode ingredients, such as aluminum and Cu, for the electrodes 12a and 12b of the bottom substrate 11. Electrodes 12a and 12b may be arranged to two steps through an insulator layer 13 (refer to drawing 5). The orientation control film 14 and 24 is formed so that

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electrodes 12a, 12b, and 22 may be covered. An insulator layer 13 and the orientation control film 14 and 24 can use a well-known ingredient conventionally.

[0032] In addition, Electrodes 12a and 12b are electrodes of the shape of a ctenidium which extended in the direction which intersects perpendicularly with the space of drawing 2, and arranged by turns to the longitudinal direction of space, and has been arranged at it. An electrode 22 may be an electrode which extends in the longitudinal direction of drawing 2 which has the width of face for at least 1 pixel, and may be a whole surface electrode which covers the whole image display side.

[0033] in order [furthermore,] to hold the gap between a substrate 11 and 21 uniformly and uniformly — the need — responding — the particle for spacers to between a substrate 11 and 21 — the resin structure of the shape of pillar—shaped or a wall is arranged. Moreover, the light absorption layer which absorbs the light is prepared in the rear face of the lower substrate 11. A light absorption function may be given to substrate 11 the very thing. Moreover, it is desirable to prepare a sealant in the perimeter of substrates 11 and 21, and to close liquid crystal between substrates.

[0034] When it drives so that the electrical-potential-difference difference more than Vf may be produced lower among electrode prepared in substrate 11 side if it was in chiral nematic liquid crystal which has forward dielectric constant anisotropy in liquid crystal display component 1 which consists of above configuration 12a, and 12b than Vh, as it is shown in drawing 2 (A), the horizontal electric field D1 parallel to a substrate side occur, and it is suitable in the direction where the helical shaft of liquid crystal is almost perpendicular to a substrate side. That is, liquid crystal will be in a planar condition and the selective reflection of predetermined wavelength will produce it.

[0035] If it drives so that the electrical-potential-difference difference more than Vf may be produced between Electrodes 12a and 12b and an electrode 22 on the other hand lower than Vh, as shown in drawing 2 (B), the vertical electric field D2 perpendicular to a substrate side will occur, and the helical shaft of liquid crystal will be suitable in the direction parallel to a substrate side. That is, liquid crystal will be in a focal conic condition, and will penetrate light.

[0036] (A modification, drawing 3, 4 reference) Various patterns can be used for the electrodes 12 and 22 prepared in the substrates 11 and 21 of a pair besides the pattern shown in drawing 2. In short, two or more electrodes which can control ON of an electrical potential difference and OFF exist, if it is a perpendicular direction and the gestalt which can carry out adjustable in parallel to a substrate side about the electric field formed between substrates, a helical shaft can be controlled and liquid crystal can be switched to a focal conic condition and a planar condition.

[0037] For example, as shown in drawing 3, two or more electrodes 12a, 12b, 22a, and 22b may be formed in the location which counters mutually at each of substrates 11 and 21. In this case, if it drives so that an electrical-potential-difference difference may be produced between electrode 12a and 12b and between electrode 22a and 22b, the horizontal electric field D1 parallel to a substrate side will occur. Moreover, if it drives so that an electrical-potentialdifference difference may be produced between electrode 12a and 22a and between electrode 12b and 22b, the vertical electric field D2 perpendicular to a substrate side will occur. [0038] Moreover, as shown in drawing 4, it may extend in the direction which intersects perpendicularly with a substrate 11 at electrode 12a and space, and electrode 12b of the shape of a ctenidium put in order and arranged to the longitudinal direction of space may be prepared through an insulator layer 13, and the broad electrode 22 may be formed in a substrate 21. In this case, if it drives so that an electrical-potential-difference difference may be produced between electrode 12a and 12b, the horizontal electric field D1 parallel to a substrate side will occur. Moreover, if it drives so that an electrical-potential-difference difference may be produced between electrode 12a and 22, the vertical electric field D2 perpendicular to a substrate side will occur.

[0039] The direction and reinforcement of electric field to generate can be adjusted by changing the physical relationship, distance, or applied voltage of <u>drawing 2</u> and the electrodes 12a, 12b, and 22 shown in 3 and 4. For example, if spacing of Electrodes 12a and 12b is made small, the

reinforcement of the electric field generated in the meantime will become large. Since interelectrode distance is related to driver voltage, it is desirable to optimize according to the physical properties of liquid crystal, the configuration of a liquid crystal display component, etc. [0040] (Refer to the example of an electrode configuration for a passive-matrix drive, and drawing 5) Here, in the configuration shown in drawing 4 of said 1st operation gestalt, the example of 1 configuration of electrodes 12a, 12b, and 22 prepared in substrates 11 and 21 is shown in drawing 5.

[0041] Scan electrode 12a prepared in the substrate 11 is formed as a ctenidium-like electrode with the detailed die length corresponding to the magnitude of one side of 1 pixel, and signal electrode 12b is formed as a detailed ctenidium-like electrode by which the group division was carried out corresponding to the magnitude of the 1-pixel other sides. The reset electrode 22 prepared in the substrate 21 is formed as a whole surface electrode corresponding to an image display field.

[0042] The reset electrode 22 is connected to the scan signal / reset-signal drive circuit 27 through the contact lines 25 and 26. Scan electrode 12a is also connected to this scan signal / reset-signal drive circuit 27. Moreover, signal-electrode 12b is connected to the data signal drive circuit 29.

[0043] When newly writing in a display, in updating, it produces the electrical-potential-difference difference more than Vf between scan electrode 12a and the reset electrode 22 first to the chiral nematic liquid crystal which has a forward dielectric constant anisotropy lower than Vh. Now, the liquid crystal of all pixels is reset by the focal conic condition toward the direction where the helical shaft of liquid crystal is almost parallel to a substrate side.

[0044] Next, the electrical-potential-difference difference more than Vf is produced between scan electrode 12a and signal-electrode 12b to the pixel which writes in an image lower than Vh. Only the liquid crystal of a pixel with which the electrical potential difference was impressed now toward the direction where the helical shaft of liquid crystal is almost perpendicular to a substrate side changes to a planar condition. This image write-in drive is based on the passive-matrix drive method which gives a pulse signal based on image data to signal-electrode 12b, choosing scan electrode 12a of one line at a time.

[0045] In addition, in a passive-matrix drive, the electrical potential difference (cross talk electrical potential difference) supplied from a drive circuit also to the pixel (liquid crystal) used as the candidate for a drive is impressed. However, if this cross talk electrical potential difference is stopped lower than threshold voltage Vf, the condition of liquid crystal will not change.

[0046] By the way, in the example of an electrode configuration shown in drawing 5, besides driving by the package reset method mentioned above, scan electrode 12a can also be driven by the division reset method changed in the direction aiming at a helical shaft, after resetting two or more [of a pixel / per every line], or two or more lines to coincidence. Moreover, it can drive also by the individual drive method which sets the helical shaft in the direction of the purpose for every pixel, without making it reset.

[0047] (The change effectiveness to a planar condition, <u>drawing 6</u> – 9 reference) The liquid crystal whose dielectric constant anisotropy is forward has the low effectiveness which changes phase transition into a planar condition from a focal conic condition. Here, how to gather the reason and effectiveness is explained.

[0048] As the molecular arrangement of a chiral nematic liquid crystal is shown in <u>drawing 6</u>, the flat surfaces which have gathered in the direction where the sense of a liquid crystal molecule is fixed are piled up little by little with torsion in the direction of a molecule. In the liquid crystal display component in which the unsettled orientation control film was prepared, although the helical shaft is located in parallel with a substrate side, liquid crystal forward in the dielectric constant anisotropy in a focal conic condition usually When it observes superficially, many minute fields (domain) it turns [fields] to various directions as shown in <u>drawing 7</u> (A), <u>drawing 8</u> (A), and <u>drawing 9</u> (A) exist in one component, and helical shaft orientation has them. [random] In addition, <u>drawing 7</u> – <u>drawing 9</u> are illustrating only one spiral structure typically.

[0049] Even if especially the liquid crystal molecule located in the direction in which the

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horizontal electric field D1 and a helical shaft cross at right angles as shown in drawing 7 impresses the horizontal electric field D1, it will be in the condition that spiral structure rolls, and will not rise in the planar condition. On the other hand, as shown in drawing 8, the horizontal electric field D1 act effectively, and the liquid crystal molecule with which the helical shaft is located in parallel with the horizontal electric field D1 rises. Therefore, if orientation processing which turns to the orientation control film 14 in the direction in which the horizontal electric field D1 and the direction of a major axis of the liquid crystal molecule of a focal conic condition cross at right angles and whose helical shaft corresponds with the sense of the horizontal electric field D1 if it puts in another way is performed, the change effectiveness to a planar condition will improve and a reflection factor will rise.

[0050] Although the approach of the conventional versatility is learned and orientation processing can adopt them, it is desirable to adopt rubbing processing or a photo alignment method. A photo alignment method carries out induction of the anisotropy for all, such as photodimerization, a photoisomerization reaction, or a photolysis reaction, to the front face of the orientation control film using a well-known approach, and orientation of the liquid crystal molecule is carried out.

[0051] As other approaches of raising the change effectiveness to a planar condition, the electrical potential difference more than the threshold voltage which torsion solves may be impressed to the liquid crystal in a focal conic condition. As shown in <u>drawing 9</u> (B), the liquid crystal molecule which was once able to dispel torsion can be spirally twisted according to the torsion effectiveness of chiral material at the moment of stopping impression of an electrical potential difference. At this time, according to an operation of the orientation control film 14, liquid crystal will be in a planar condition, the change effectiveness to a planar condition is good, and a reflection factor rises.

[0052] In addition, what is necessary is just to impress the horizontal electric field D1 as for which the spiral pitch of liquid crystal becomes longer in short than the spiral pitch in a focal conic condition that what is necessary is that did not need to solve not necessarily completely [torsion of liquid crystal] in the latter approach, and torsion will just once be able to be dispelled partially at least.

[0053] Moreover, if the orientation processing to the former orientation control film and the method of impressing the electrical potential difference more than the latter threshold voltage which torsion solves partially at least are combined, the change effectiveness to the planar condition of liquid crystal will improve more.

[0054] (Explanation of the example of an experiment) Next, this invention persons actually manufacture and explain the liquid crystal display which conducted the drive experiment. [0055] (Example 1 of an experiment) What was manufactured as an example 1 of an experiment was a liquid crystal display which has the electrode configuration shown in <u>drawing 5</u>, formed the ITO film in the substrate 11 which consists of a polycarbonate film, and carried out patterning of the electrodes 12a and 12b by the photolithography method. The gap of Electrodes 12a and 12b was set to 5 micrometers, the orientation control film 14 —: made from JSR — it formed by flexographic printing using AL8254.

[0056] On the other hand, the ITO film was formed in the substrate 21 which consists of a polycarbonate film, and the electrode 22 was formed by the photolithography method. the orientation control film 24 -- : made from JSR -- it formed by flexographic printing using AL8254.

[0057] Said substrates 11 and 21 manufactured lamination and a liquid crystal panel in the condition of having pinched the chiral nematic liquid crystal and the gap attachment component. In order to prevent that substrate spacing becomes narrow,: [by the Sekisui fine chemical company] micro pearl with a particle size of 10 micrometers was used for the gap attachment component, in order to prevent that substrate spacing spreads, the adhesives of an urethane system were used, and the pillar—shaped resin structure of height [a little] higher than the diameter of a spacer has been arranged in the shape of a grid. Moreover, the periphery section of a substrate was closed by the sealant.

[0058] Rubbing processing was performed so that the helical shaft of the liquid crystal of a focal

conic condition might be in agreement in the direction of horizontal electric field, and it was made to wash and dry after rubbing processing on condition that the following to said orientation control film 14 and 24.

rubbing roller quality-of-the-material: — diameter of rayon rubbing roller: — number of 60mm rubbing roller rotations: — amount of 50rpm rubbing roller pushing: — 0.3mm table rate (relative feed rate of roller to substrate): — a part [0059] for 100m/ As a chiral nematic liquid crystal, the chiral material CB15 (Merck Co. make) 30 weight section was added in the liquid crystallinity compound MN9014 (Chisso Corp. make) 70 weight section, and the liquid crystal constituent which has a forward dielectric constant anisotropy was prepared and used.

[0060] Electrical-potential-difference 60V were impressed with a spacing of 5 micrometers between electrode 12a and 12b, and the liquid crystal in a FOKARU conic condition was made to generate the horizontal electric field D1 in the liquid crystal display which pinched said liquid crystal constituent between substrates. The reflection factor in a focal conic condition was 8%, and if shown in the liquid crystal display which performed said rubbing processing, the reflection factor after change was 35% in the planar condition. On the other hand, when rubbing processing had not been performed with the liquid crystal display of the same configuration, the reflection factor after change was 25% in the planar condition.

[0061] (Example 2 of an experiment) It has the same configuration as said example 1 of an experiment, and the liquid crystal display which pinched the same liquid crystal constituent between the substrates of a pair was manufactured. In addition, the ultraviolet rays (wavelength: 365nm, light exposure:100 - 300 J/cm2) which carried out the linearly polarized light to the orientation control film 14 and 24 were irradiated, and orientation processing by the photo alignment method was performed.

[0062] Electrical-potential-difference 60V were impressed with a spacing of 5 micrometers between electrode 12a and 12b, and the liquid crystal in a FOKARU conic condition was made to generate the horizontal electric field D1 in this liquid crystal display. The reflection factor in a focal conic condition was 8%, and if shown in the liquid crystal display which performed processing by said photo alignment method, the reflection factor after change was 30% in the planar condition. On the other hand, when orientation processing had not been performed with the liquid crystal display of the same configuration, the reflection factor after change was 25% in the planar condition.

[0063] (Example 3 of an experiment) It has the same configuration as said example 1 of an experiment, and the liquid crystal display which pinched the same liquid crystal constituent between the substrates of a pair was manufactured. In addition, orientation processing was not performed to the orientation control film 14 and 24.

[0064] Electrical-potential-difference 90V which torsion of a liquid crystal molecule solves were impressed, and the liquid crystal in a FOKARU conic condition was made to generate the horizontal electric field D1 with a spacing of 5 micrometers between electrode 12a and 12b in this liquid crystal display. The reflection factor in a focal conic condition was 8%, and the reflection factor after change was 30% in the planar condition at the time of impressing electrical-potential-difference 90V. When electrical-potential-difference 60V below the threshold which torsion solves with the liquid crystal display of the same configuration on the other hand were impressed, the reflection factor after change was 25% in the planar condition. [0065] (Example 4 of an experiment) It has the same configuration as said example 1 of an experiment, and the liquid crystal display which pinched the same liquid crystal constituent between the substrates of a pair was manufactured. Rubbing processing was performed like the example 1 of an experiment to the orientation control film 14 and 24.

[0066] Electrical-potential-difference 90V which torsion of a liquid crystal molecule solves were impressed, and the liquid crystal in a focal conic condition was made to generate the horizontal electric field D1 with a spacing of 5 micrometers between electrode 12a and 12b in this liquid crystal display. The reflection factor in a focal conic condition was 8%, and the reflection factor after change in the planar condition at the time of impressing electrical-potential-difference 90V was 38%.

[0067] (Other operation gestalten) in addition, the liquid crystal display concerning this invention

is not limited to said each operation gestalt, within the limits of the summary, can be boiled variously and can be changed.

[0068] It can constitute from what was constituted from one layer of the display device shown with said each operation gestalt especially as a display, a thing (full color display) which carried out the laminating of the display device which performs each selective reflection of R, G, and B to three layers, or a thing which carried out the laminating of the display device which performs selective reflection of the wavelength of arbitration to two-layer. Furthermore, the internal configuration of a drive circuit and its combination are arbitrary.

[0069] Moreover, although the liquid crystal display component of a passive-matrix mold is mentioned as the example with said operation gestalt, also in the liquid crystal display component of the active-matrix mold which has a switching element (for example, TFT:Thin Film Transistor and TFD:Thin Film Diode) for every pixel, this invention is applicable.

[0070] Moreover, about the configuration of an electrode, various configurations are employable besides having been shown in <u>drawing 2</u>, and 3 and 4, and in short, if formation of the electric field of at least two directions is possible to inter-electrode [two or more], it is possible to control the helical shaft orientations of liquid crystal.

[Translation done.]

* NOTICES *

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DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

[Brief Description of the Drawings]

[Drawing 1] The explanatory view of a chiral nematic liquid crystal.

[Drawing 2] The sectional view of the liquid crystal display component which is the 1st operation gestalt of this invention shows the condition that (A) generated horizontal electric field parallel to a substrate side, and the condition that (B) generated vertical electric field perpendicular to a substrate side.

[Drawing 3] The sectional view of the liquid crystal display component which is the 1st modification.

[Drawing 4] The sectional view of the liquid crystal display component which is the 2nd modification.

[Drawing 5] The perspective view showing the example of an electrode configuration for a passive-matrix drive.

[Drawing 6] The explanatory view showing the array of a chiral nematic liquid crystal molecule.

[Drawing 7] An explanatory view in case the liquid crystal molecule in a focal conic condition cannot change to a planar condition easily.

[Drawing 8] The explanatory view showing an example in case the liquid crystal molecule in a focal conic condition tends to change to a planar condition.

[Drawing 9] The explanatory view showing other examples in case the liquid crystal molecule in a focal conic condition tends to change to a planar condition.

[Description of Notations]

1 -- Liquid crystal display component

11 21 -- Substrate

12 22 -- Electrode

D1 -- Horizontal electric field

D2 -- Vertical electric field

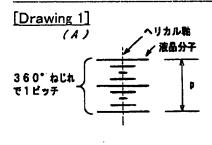
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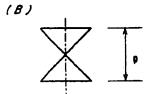
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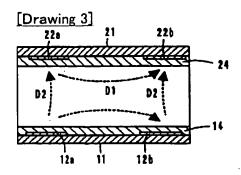
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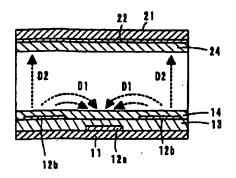
DRAWINGS

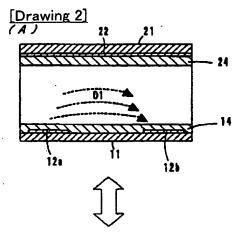


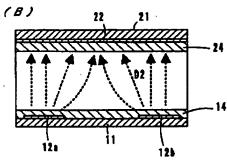


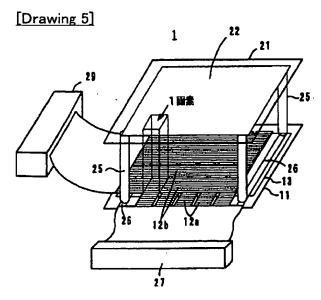


[Drawing 4]

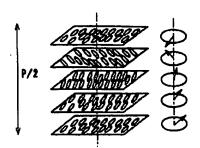


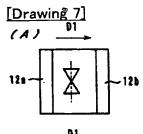


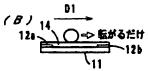


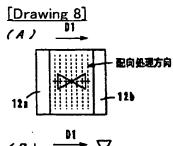


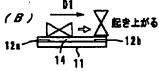
[Drawing 6]

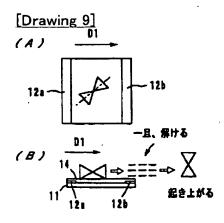












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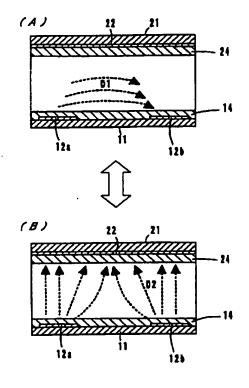
(54) 【発明の名称】 被晶表示装置

(57)【要約】

【課題】 画像更新時の駆動電圧が低く、かつ、フォーカルコニック状態からプレーナ状態へ相転移する際の変化効率が良好な液晶表示装置を得る。

【解決手段】 電極12a,12bを備えた基板11と

電極22を備えた基板21との間に、誘電率異方性が正のカイラルネマチック液晶を挟持し、該液晶の選択反射を利用して表示を行う液晶表示装置。電極12a,12bと電極22との間に基板面にほぼ垂直な縦電界D2を発生させると、液晶はヘリカル軸が縦電界D1を発生させると、液晶はヘリカル軸が横電界D1を発生させると、液晶はヘリカル軸が横電界D1に垂直なブレーナ状態になる。ブレーナ状態への変化を助長するため、配向制御膜にはヘリカル軸を横電界D1の向きに一致させる配向処理が施されている。また、ブレーナ状態へ変化させる際、液晶のねじれを解く程度の強さの横電界D1を印加してもよい。



【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項1】 一対の基板と、

前記基板間に挟持され、誘電率異方性が正であるコレステリック相を示す液晶と、

前記基板に対してほぼ垂直方向及びほぼ平行方向の電界を選択的に印加可能な電極と、

フォーカルコニック状態にある前配液晶のヘリカル軸 を、基板に対してほぼ平行方向の電界の向きに一致させ る配向制御手段と、

を備えたことを特徴とする液晶表示装置。

【請求項2】 前記液晶をフォーカルコニック状態から プレーナ状態に変化させる際に基板に対してほぼ平行方 向に印加される電界が、液晶の螺旋ビッチをフォーカル コニック状態での螺旋ビッチよりも長くさせるものであ ることを特徴とする請求項1記載の液晶表示装置。

【請求項3】 前配配向制御手段はラビング処理又は光配向処理のうち少なくとも一方が施された配向制御膜であることを特徴とする請求項1又は請求項2記載の液晶表示装置。

【請求項4】 一対の基板と、

前記基板間に挟持され、誘電率異方性が正であるコレステリック相を示す液晶と、

前記基板に対してほぼ垂直方向及びほぼ平行方向の電界を選択的に印加可能な電極と、を備え、

前記液晶をフォーカルコニック状態からブレーナ状態に 変化させる際に基板に対してほぼ平行方向に印加される 電界が、液晶の螺旋ピッチをフォーカルコニック状態で の螺旋ピッチよりも長くさせるものであること、

を特徴とする液晶表示装置。

【請求項5】 前記電極に電圧を印加するととにより駆 30 動を行う駆動手段をさらに備えていることを特徴とする 請求項1、請求項2、請求項3又は請求項4記載の液晶 表示装置。

【発明の詳細な説明】

[0001]

【発明の属する技術分野】本発明は、液晶表示装置、特 に、一対の基板間にコレステリック相を示す液晶を挟持 し、該液晶の選択反射を利用して表示を行う液晶表示装置に関する。

[0002]

【発明の背景】近年、種々の液晶表示案子が開発、提供されている。そのなかで反射型液晶表示案子は、環境光(外部の光)を反射することにより表示を行うため、バックライトを必要とする透過型液晶表示素子に比べて少ない消費電力で表示が可能であり、この利点を活かして携帯電話やモバイル機器などの表示部に採用されている。また、さらなる低消費電力化の研究開発も盛んに行われ、メモリ性を有する反射型液晶表示案子等が提案されている。

[0003]

【従来の技術】メモリ性を有する反射型液晶表示素子の動作モードとしては、テクニカルペーパーSID国際シンポジューム要約(SID International Symposium Digestof Technical Paper)第29巻、897頁に開示されている。この動作モードは、カイラルネマチック液晶の配向状態をブレーナ状態(光の選択反射状態)及びフォーカルコニック状態(光の透過状態)のいずれかに切り換えて表示を行う方式である。ブレーナ状態及びフォーカルコニック状態は、それぞれ安定な状態であるた

10 め、一旦液晶をいずれかの状態にセットすれば、外力が 加わらない限り、半永久的にその状態を維持する。即 ち、画像を一旦表示すれば電源を切っても表示された画 像がそのまま維持されるメモリ性を備えた反射型液晶表 示素子として有用である。

【0004】前記文献に記載されている反射型液晶表示素子は、それぞれ電極を備えた一対の基板間に正の誘電率異方性を有するカイラルネマチック液晶を挟持した構成であり、電極によって基板に対して垂直方向に電界を作用させ、その電界の強度及び/又は印加時間を制御することにより、液晶を所定の状態(プレーナ状態及びフォーカルコニック状態)に変化させる。

[0005]液晶にそのねじれを解くための関値電圧以上の電圧を充分な時間印加すると、液晶は全てホメオトロピック状態(液晶分子の長軸方向が基板に対して垂直な状態)になる。この状態は、メモリ性がないために電界を消去すると、液晶はねじれた配列になる。ホメオトロピック状態から、電界を急激に消去した場合はプレーナ状態になり、電界を徐々に消去した場合はフォーカルコニック状態になる。

【0006】また、フォーカルコニック状態の液晶に、そのねじれを解くための閾値電圧以上のバルス電圧(一部の液晶がホメオトロピック状態になるバルス幅の電圧)を印加した場合、ホメオトロピック状態になった液晶は、バルス電圧の印加終了後にプレーナ状態になる。バルス電圧の幅及び/又は電圧の高さを制御することにより、プレーナ状態となる液晶の割合を調整(中間調を表示)することができる。

[0007]

【発明が解決しようとする課題】しかしながら、カイラルネマチック液晶を用いた前記液晶表示素子においては、画像更新時の駆動電圧が高いという問題点を有している。即ち、カイラルネマチック液晶は理論上50%の反射率を示すが、液晶層が薄い場合は50%未満に低下する。特に、螺旋ビッチの長い赤色を選択反射する液晶では反射率の低下が顕著である。そのため液晶層の厚み(特に、赤色の選択反射を行う液晶層の厚み)を、十分な反射率が得られるように厚く設定する必要があり、その結果として駆動電圧が高くなる。

【0008】そとで、本発明者らは、基板に対してほぼ 50 垂直方向及びほぼ平行方向の電界を選択的に印加して液 3

晶の状態を変化させる駆動方法での実用化を検討した。 この駆動方法では、基板面に垂直な縦電界を印加して液 晶をフォーカルコニック状態に一括してリセットした 後、画像を表示すべき画素ごとに基板面に平行な横電界 を印加して液晶をプレーナ状態に変化させる。この駆動 方法によれば、横電界を印加する電極間距離を加工上可 能な限り近接させることで、反射率を低下させることな く駆動電圧を低減するのに有利な構成となる。

【0009】しかし、前記駆動方法では、フォーカルコ ニック状態からプレーナ状態へ相転移する際の変化効率 10 が低いことが判明した。

【0010】そこで、本発明の目的は、画像更新時の駆動電圧が低く、かつ、フォーカルコニック状態からプレーナ状態への変化効率が良好な液晶表示装置を提供することにある。

[0011]

【発明の構成、作用及び効果】以上の目的を達成するため、第1の発明に係る液晶表示装置は、一対の基板と、該基板間に挟持され、誘電率異方性が正であるコレステリック相を示す液晶と、前記基板に対してほぼ垂直方向 20及びほぼ平行方向の電界を選択的に印加可能な電極と、フォーカルコニック状態にある前記液晶のヘリカル軸を、基板に対してほぼ平行方向の電界の向きに一致させる配向制御手段とを備えたことを特徴とする。

【0013】誘電率異方性が正のコレステリック相を示す液晶に充分に高い電圧を印加すると、液晶分子のねじれが解けてヘリカル軸が電界方向と直交する方向に向く。液晶分子のねじれが解ける電圧には閾値が存在する。また、閾値電圧以下の電圧を印加すると、液晶はねじれを解くことなくヘリカル軸が電界印加方向と直交する方向に向く。

【0014】 このように、電界の印加方向を変更することで、液晶のヘリカル軸が基板に対してほぼ垂直方向及びほぼ水平方向に変化し、液晶をプレーナ状態とフォーカルコニック状態との間で直接的に変化させることができる。また、前記関値電圧以下の電圧を印加すると、液晶はホメオトロピック状態を経ることなく、ブレーナ状態とフォーカルコニック状態との間で直接的に変化し、従来よりも低電圧で駆動することができる。この場合は、画像更新時にホメオトロピック状態を経ないため、画面全体が瞬間的に黒くなって画質が劣化する不具合は50

生じない。

【0015】ところで、配向制御膜が設けられた液晶表示素子において、フォーカルコニック状態にある液晶は、通常、ヘリカル軸が基板面にほぼ平行になっているが、平面的に観察した場合、ヘリカル軸の方向はランダムであり、この点が基板面に平行な横電界を印加しても全ての液晶分子がプレーナ状態に変化せず、変化効率が悪い原因であると考えられる。

[0016] そこで、第1の発明に係る液晶表示装置では、配向制御手段によって、フォーカルコニック状態にある液晶のヘリカル軸を基板に対してほぼ平行方向の電界の向きに一致させるようにしたため、横電界がより多くの液晶分子に効果的に作用するものと考えられ、液晶のブレーナ状態への変化効率が向上し、その結果ブレーナ状態での反射率が上昇する。

【0017】前記配向制御手段は、種々の配向処理を施 した配向制御膜を用いることができ、ラビング処理され た配向制御膜、あるいは、光配向処理された配向制御膜 を用いることが好ましい。

[0018]また、第2の発明に係る液晶表示装置では、液晶をフォーカルコニック状態からブレーナ状態に変化させる際に基板に対してほぼ平行方向に印加される電界が、液晶の螺旋ピッチをフォーカルコニック状態での螺旋ピッチよりも長くさせるようにしたため、ねじれが部分的にあるいは完全に解けた状態となり、電界の印加が停止された瞬間にねじれが生じてブレーナ状態となる。このような状態変化はより多くの液晶のヘリカル軸を基板に対してほぼ垂直方向に変化させ、液晶のブレーナ状態への変化効率が向上し、その結果ブレーナ状態での反射率が上昇する。

【0019】また、前記第1及び第2の発明の特徴点を組み合わせてもよい。即ち、フォーカルコニック状態にある液晶のヘリカル軸を基板に対してほぼ平行方向の電界の向きに一致させる配向制御手段を備え、かつ、液晶をフォーカルコニック状態からプレーナ状態に変化させる際に基板に対してほぼ平行方向に印加される電界が液晶の螺旋ビッチをフォーカルコニック状態での螺旋ビッチよりも長くさせるように構成してもよい。これにて、液晶のプレーナ状態への変化効率がより向上し、プレーナ状態での反射率がより上昇する。

【0020】第1及び第2の発明に係る液晶表示装置において、前記電極には、同一基板上の互いに異なる平面位置に配置された少なくとも一組の電極が含まれていてもよい。この一組の電極間に横電界を容易に発生させることができる。このような電極の例として、入れ子に配置された一組の櫛歯状電極を挙げることができる。

[0021]さらに、第1及び第2の発明に係る液晶表示装置には、前配電極に電圧を印加することにより駆動を行う駆動手段を備えることができる。

0 [0022]

【発明の実施の形態】以下、本発明に係る液晶表示装置 の実施形態について、添付図面を参照して説明する。

【0023】(原理的説明、図1参照)本発明に係る液 晶表示装置は、表示媒体としてコレステリック相を示す 液晶を用いており、この種の液晶としてはカイラルネマ チック液晶が代表的なものである。

【0024】カイラルネマチック液晶はネマチック液晶 に所定量のカイラル材を添加することによって得られ る。このカイラルネマチック液晶は、図1(A)に示す ように、一般的に、棒状の液晶分子がねじれた配列をな 10 し、コレステリック相を示している。この液晶に光が入 射すると、ヘリカル軸に対して平行な方向から光が入射 した場合、 $\lambda = n p$ で示される波長の光を選択反射する (プレーナ状態)。CCで、λは波長、nは液晶分子の 平均屈折率、pは液晶分子が360° ねじれている距離 (以下、螺旋ピッチと記す) である。一方、ヘリカル軸 に対して垂直な方向から光が入射した場合、光は実質的 に反射することなく透過する (フォーカルコニック状 態)。この選択反射及び透過を利用して表示が行われ る。なお、液晶のコレステリック相は図1(B)のよう 20 いものが好ましい。電極12a,12b,22の材料 にも示される。

【0025】ところで、液晶分子は棒状であるが、その 長手方向(長軸)とそれに垂直な方向(短軸)で屈折率 や誘電率が異なる異方性を有している。液晶分子の長軸 方向の屈折率及び誘電率が短軸方向のそれらよりも大き い液晶を誘電率異方性が正の液晶と称する。これに対し て、液晶分子の長軸方向の屈折率が短軸方向のそれより も大きく、かつ、長軸方向の誘電率が短軸方向のそれよ りも小さい液晶を誘電率異方性が負の液晶と称する。

【0026】誘電率異方性が正の液晶に十分に高い電圧 30 を印加するとねじれが解け、液晶分子の長軸(誘電率が 大きい軸)が電界方向と平行な方向に向くように動く。 このねじれが解ける電圧には閾値が存在し、 閾値電圧を Vhとする。

【0027】また、前記閾値電圧Vhよりも低い電圧を 液晶に印加すると、液晶はねじれを解くことなくヘリカ ル軸が電界方向に対して垂直な方向に向くように動く。 とのヘリカル軸を動かす電圧にも閾値が存在し、この閾 値電圧をVfとする。

【0028】 これらの閾値電圧 Vh. Vfの関係は、V f < V h である。また、閾値電圧 V f よりも低い電圧を 液晶に印加しても液晶分子は動くことがない、即ち、へ リカル軸方向が変化することがない。

【0029】(第1実施形態、図2参照)第1実施形態 である液晶表示素子1は、図2に示すように、下側の基・ 板11に互いに異なる平面位置に配置された電極12 a. 12b及び配向制御膜14を設け、上側の基板21 に電極22及び配向制御膜24を設け、基板11,21 間にネマチック液晶にカイラル材を添加して室温でコレ ステリック相を示すように調製したカイラルネマチック 50

液晶を挟持した構成からなる。図2においては1単位の 画案の数分の1を概略的に示している。

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[0030]液晶としては、誘電率異方性が正で、室温 でコレステリック相を示すものであれば、種々のものを 使用することができ、典型的には、ネマチック液晶にカ イラル材を添加し、室温でコレステリック液晶相を示す ようにしたカイラルネマチック液晶が用いられる。カイ ラル材の添加量は、例えばコレステリック液晶組成物全 体の8~45重量%とすることができる。市販のものと しては、例えば、液晶性化合物MLC6080(メルク 社製)、EV31LV (メルク社製)、MN9014 (チッソ社製) のそれぞれにカイラル材R-811、R -1011、CB15(メルク社製)を単独であるいは 組み合わせて所定量添加したものを使用することができ

【0031】基板11、21の材料は、ガラスやポリエ ーテルスルフォン (PES)、ポリエチレンテレフタレ ート(PET)、ポリカーボネート(PC)等のプラス チックフィルムなど種々のものを使用できる。軽量で薄 は、ITO、IZO等の透明電極材料を使用でき、下側 基板11の電極12a, 12bにはA1, Cu等の非透 明電極材料を使用してもよい。電極12a, 12bは絶 縁膜13 (図5参照)を介して2段に配置してもよい。 配向制御膜14,24は電極12a,12b,22を覆 うように設けられている。絶縁膜13や配向制御膜1 4.24は従来公知の材料を用いることができる。

【0032】なお、電極12a, 12bは図2の紙面と 直交する方向に延在し、かつ、紙面の左右方向に交互に 並べて配置された櫛歯状の電極である。電極22は少な くとも1画案分の幅を有する図2の左右方向に延在する 電極であり、画像表示面の全体を被覆する全面電極であ ってもよい。

【0033】さらに、基板11,21間のギャップを均 ーで一定に保持するために、必要に応じて、基板 1 1, 21間にスペーサ用の微粒子や、柱状又は壁状の樹脂構 造物が配置される。また、下側の基板11の裏面に可視 光を吸収する光吸収層が設けられる。基板11自体に可 視光吸収機能を持たせてもよい。また、基板11,21 40 の周囲にはシール材を設けて基板間に液晶を封止するこ とが好ましい。

【0034】以上の構成からなる液晶表示素子1におい て、正の誘電率異方性を有するカイラルネマチック液晶 にあっては、基板11側に設けられた電極12a,12 b間にVhより低くVf以上の電圧差を生じるように駆 動すると、図2(A)に示すように、基板面に平行な攅 電界D1が発生し、液晶のヘリカル軸が基板面にほぼ垂 直な方向に向く。即ち、液晶はプレーナ状態になり、所 定波長の選択反射が生じる。

【0035】一方、電極12a,12bと電極22間に

Vhより低くVf以上の電圧差を生じるように駆動する と、図2(B)に示すように、基板面に垂直な縦電界D 2が発生し、液晶のヘリカル軸が基板面に平行な方向に 向く。即ち、液晶はフォーカルコニック状態になり、光 を透過する。

【0036】(変形例、図3.4参照)一対の基板1 1、21に設けられる電極12、22は、図2に示した パターン以外にも種々のパターンを採用することができ る。要するに、電圧のオン、オフを制御できる複数の電 極が存在し、基板間に形成される電界を基板面に対して 10 垂直方向及び平行方向に可変できる形態であれば、ヘリ カル軸を制御して液晶をフォーカルコニック状態及びプ レーナ状態に切り換えることができる。

【0037】例えば、図3に示すように、基板11,2 1のそれぞれに複数本の電極12a, 12b, 22a, 22 bを互いに対向する位置に設けてもよい。この場 合、電極12a, 12b間及び電極22a, 22b間に 電圧差を生じるように駆動すると、基板面に平行な横電 界D1が発生する。また、電極12a,22a間、及び 電極12b、22b間に電圧差を生じるように駆動する と、基板面に垂直な縦電界D2が発生する。

【0038】また、図4に示すように、基板11に電極 12 a と紙面に直交する方向に延在し、かつ、紙面の左 右方向に並べて配置した櫛歯状の電極 1 2 b を絶縁膜 1 3を介して設け、基板21に幅広の電極22を設けても よい。この場合、電極12a, 12b間に電圧差を生じ るように駆動すると、基板面に平行な横電界 D1 が発生 する。また、電極12a、22間に電圧差を生じるよう に駆動すると、基板面に垂直な縦電界D2が発生する。

【0039】図2, 3, 4に示した電極12a, 12 b. 22の位置関係や距離あるいは印加電圧を変えると とにより、発生する電界の方向や強度を調整することが できる。例えば、電極12a, 12bの間隔を小さくす ると、その間に発生する電界の強度は大きくなる。電極 間距離は、駆動電圧と関係するため液晶の物性や液晶表 示素子の構成等に応じて最適化することが望ましい。

【0040】(単純マトリクス駆動用の電極構成例、図 5参照)ととで、前記第1実施形態の図4に示す構成に おいて、基板11,21に設けられる電極12a,12 b. 22の一構成例を図5に示す。

【0041】基板11に設けた走査電極12aは1画素 の一辺の大きさに対応する長さの微細な櫛歯状電極とし て形成され、信号電極12bは1画素の他辺の大きさに 対応してグループ分けされた微細な櫛歯状電極として形 成されている。基板21に設けたリセット電極22は画 像表示領域に対応する全面電極として形成されている。

【0042】リセット電極22はコンタクトライン2 5,26を介して走査信号/リセット信号駆動回路27 に接続されている。この走査信号/リセット信号駆動回 路27には走査電極12aも接続されている。また、信 50 って、ブレーナ状態に起き上がることはない。一方、図

号電極12bはデータ信号駆動回路29に接続されてい

【0043】表示を新たに書き込む場合や更新する場合 には、正の誘電率異方性を有するカイラルネマチック液 晶に対して、まず、走査電極12aとリセット電極22 との間にVhより低くVf以上の電圧差を生じさせる。 これにて、液晶のヘリカル軸が基板面にほぼ平行な方向 に向き、全画素の液晶がプォーカルコニック状態にリセ ットされる。

[0044]次に、画像を書き込む画素に対して、走査 電極12aと信号電極12bとの間にVhより低くVf 以上の電圧差を生じさせる。これにて、液晶のヘリカル 軸が基板面にほぼ垂直な方向に向き、電圧が印加された 画素の液晶のみがブレーナ状態に変化する。この画像書 込み駆動は、走査電極12aを1ラインずつ選択しなが ら信号電極12bへ画像データに基づいてパルス信号を 付与する単純マトリクス駆動方式による。

【0045】なお、単純マトリクス駆動の場合、駆動対 象となっていない画素(液晶)に対しても駆動回路から 供給される電圧(クロストーク電圧)が印加される。し かし、とのクロストーク電圧を関値電圧Vfより低く抑 えれば、液晶の状態が変化することはない。

【0046】ととろで、図5に示した電極構成例では、 前述した一括リセット方式で駆動する以外に、走査電極 12aを画素の1ラインずつ複数本あるいは複数ライン を同時にリセットしてからヘリカル軸を目的とする方向 に変化させる分割リセット方式で駆動することもでき る。また、リセットさせることなく各画素ごとにヘリカ ル軸を目的の方向にセットしていく個別駆動方式でも駆 30 動可能である。

【0047】(プレーナ状態への変化効率、図6~9参 照)誘電率異方性が正である液晶はフォーカルコニック 状態からブレーナ状態に相転移する効率が低い。ここ で、その理由及び効率を上げる方法について説明する。 [0048] カイラルネマチック液晶の分子配列は、図 6に示すように、液晶分子の向きが一定の方向に揃って いる平面が分子の方向を少しずつねじりながら積み重な っている。未処理の配向制御膜が設けられた液晶表示素 子においては、通常、フォーカルコニック状態にある誘 電率異方性が正の液晶は、ヘリカル軸が基板面に平行に 位置しているが、平面的に観察した場合、図7(A)、 図8(A)、図9(A)に示すような、色々な方向を向 く微小領域(ドメイン)が一つの素子内に多数存在して おり、ヘリカル軸の方向はランダムである。なお、図7 ~図9は、代表的に一つの螺旋構造のみを模式的に図示

[0049]特に、図7に示すように、ヘリカル軸が横 電界D1と直交する方向に位置している液晶分子は、横 電界D1を印加しても螺旋構造が転がるような状態とな

している。

8に示すように、ヘリカル軸が横電界D1と平行に位置している液晶分子は、横電界D1が効果的に作用して起き上がる。従って、配向制御膜14にフォーカルコニック状態の液晶分子の長軸方向が横電界D1と直交する方向に向くような、換言すれば、ヘリカル軸が横電界D1の向きに一致するような配向処理を施せば、プレーナ状態への変化効率が向上し、反射率が上昇する。

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【0050】配向処理は従来種々の方法が知られており、それらを採用することができるが、ラビング処理あるいは光配向法を採用することが好ましい。光配向法は、光二重化反応、光異性化反応又は光分解反応等何れも公知の方法を用いて配向制御膜の表面に異方性を誘起し、液晶分子を配向させる。

【0051】プレーナ状態への変化効率を向上させる他の方法として、フォーカルコニック状態にある液晶にねじれが解ける関値電圧以上の電圧を印加してもよい。図9(B)に示すように、一旦ねじれが解けた液晶分子は、電圧の印加を停止した瞬間にカイラル材のねじれ効果により螺旋状にねじれる。このとき、配向制御膜14の作用によって液晶はプレーナ状態になり、プレーナ状20態への変化効率は良好であり、反射率が上昇する。

【0052】なお、後者の方法において、液晶のねじれは必ずしも完全に解ける必要はなく、一旦、少なくともねじれが部分的に解けた状態になればよく、要するに、液晶の螺旋ビッチがフォーカルコニック状態での螺旋ビッチよりも長くなるような横電界D1を印加すればよい。

【0053】また、前者の配向制御膜に対する配向処理 と、後者の少なくとも部分的にねじれが解ける関値電圧 以上の電圧を印加する方法とを組み合わせれば、液晶の プレーナ状態への変化効率はより向上する。

【0054】(実験例の説明)次に、本発明者らが実際に製作し、駆動実験を行った液晶表示装置について説明する。

【0055】(実験例1)実験例1として製作したのは、図5に示した電極構成を有する液晶表示装置であり、ポリカーボネートフィルムからなる基板11にIT O膜を形成し、フォトリソグラフィ法で電極12a, 12bの間隙は5μmとした。配向制御膜14はJSR社製:AL8254を用いてフレキソ印刷により形成した。

【0056】一方、ポリカーボネートフィルムからなる 基板21にITO膜を形成し、フォトリソグラフィ法で 電極22を設けた。配向制御膜24はJSR社製:AL 8254を用いてフレキソ印刷により形成した。

【0057】前記基板11、21は、カイラルネマチック液晶及びギャップ保持部材を挟持した状態に貼り合わせ、液晶パネルを製作した。ギャップ保持部材には、基板間隔が狭くなるのを防止するために粒径10μmの積水ファインケミカル社製:ミクロパールを用い、基板間

隔が広がるのを防止するためにウレタン系の接着剤を用いて、スペーサ径より若干高い高さの柱状樹脂構造物を格子状に配置した。また、基板の周縁部をシール材によって封止した。

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【0058】前記配向制御膜14,24に対しては以下の条件にて、フォーカルコニック状態の液晶のヘリカル軸が横電界の方向に一致するようにラビング処理を施し、ラビング処理後に洗浄し、乾燥させた。

ラビングローラ材質:レーヨン

10 ラビングローラ径:60mm

ラピングローラ回転数:50rpmラピングローラ押込み量:0.3mm

テーブル速度(基板に対するローラの相対送り速度): 100m/分

【0059】カイラルネマチック液晶としては、液晶性化合物MN9014(チッソ社製)70重量部にカイラル材CB15(メルク社製)30重量部を添加し、正の誘電率異方性を有する液晶組成物を調製して用いた。

【0060】前記液晶組成物を基板間に挟持した液晶表示装置において、フォカールコニック状態にある液晶に、間隔5μmの電極12a、12b間に電圧60Vを印加して横電界D1を発生させた。フォーカルコニック状態での反射率は8%であり、前記ラビング処理を施した液晶表示装置にあっては、ブレーナ状態へ変化後の反射率は35%であった。一方、同じ構成の液晶表示装置でラビング処理を施していない場合、ブレーナ状態へ変化後の反射率は25%であった。

[0061] (実験例2)前記実験例1と同じ構成を有し、同じ液晶組成物を一対の基板間に挟持した液晶表示装置を製作した。なお、配向制御膜14,24に対しては直線偏光した紫外線(波長:365nm、露光量:100~300J/cm²)を照射して光配向法による配向処理を行った。

【0062】との液晶表示装置において、フォカールコニック状態にある液晶に、間隔5μmの電極12a、12b間に電圧60Vを印加して横電界D1を発生させた。フォーカルコニック状態での反射率は8%であり、前記光配向法での処理を施した液晶表示装置にあっては、プレーナ状態へ変化後の反射率は30%であった。40一方、同じ構成の液晶表示装置で配向処理を施していない場合、プレーナ状態へ変化後の反射率は25%であった。

[0063] (実験例3) 前記実験例1と同じ構成を有し、同じ液晶組成物を一対の基板間に挟持した液晶表示 装置を製作した。なお、配向制御膜14,24に対して は配向処理を行わなかった。

【0064】との液晶表示装置において、フォカールコニック状態にある液晶に、間隔5μmの電極12a、12b間に、液晶分子のねじれが解ける電圧90Vを印加50 して横電界D1を発生させた。フォーカルコニック状態

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での反射率は8%であり、電圧90Vを印加した場合のブレーナ状態へ変化後の反射率は30%であった。一方、同じ構成の液晶表示装置でねじれが解ける関値以下の電圧60Vを印加した場合、ブレーナ状態へ変化後の反射率は25%であった。

【0065】(実験例4)前記実験例1と同じ構成を有し、同じ液晶組成物を一対の基板間に挟持した液晶表示 装置を製作した。配向制御膜14,24に対して実験例 1と同様にラビング処理を施した。

【0066】との液晶表示装置において、フォーカルコニック状態にある液晶に、間隔5μmの電極12a, 12b間に、液晶分子のねじれが解ける電圧90Vを印加して横電界D1を発生させた。フォーカルコニック状態での反射率は8%であり、電圧90Vを印加した場合のプレーナ状態への変化後の反射率は38%であった。

[0067] (他の実施形態)なお、本発明に係る液晶 表示装置は前記各実施形態に限定するものではなく、そ の要旨の範囲内で種々に変更することができる。

【0068】特に、表示装置としては、前記各実施形態で示した表示素子の1層で構成したもの、R. G. Bの 20各選択反射を行う表示素子を3層に積層したもの(フルカラー表示)、あるいは任意の波長の選択反射を行う表示素子を2層に積層したものなどで構成することができる。さらに、駆動回路の内部構成、その組合せは任意である。

【0069】また、前記実施形態では単純マトリクス型の液晶表示素子を例に挙げているが、画素ごとにスイッチング素子(例えば、TFT: Thin Film Transistorや、TFD: Thin Film Diode)を有するアクティブマトリクス型の液晶表示素子においても本発明を適用で*30

*きる。

[0070]また、電極の構成に関しては、図2,3,4に示した以外に種々の構成を採用することができ、要するに、複数の電極間に少なくとも二つの方向の電界を形成可能であれば、液晶のヘリカル軸方向を制御することが可能である。

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【図面の簡単な説明】

【図1】カイラルネマチック液晶の説明図。

【図2】本発明の第1実施形態である液晶表示素子の断面図で、(A)は基板面に平行な横電界を発生させた状態、(B)は基板面に垂直な縦電界を発生させた状態を示す。

[図3]第1の変形例である液晶表示素子の断面図。

[図4]第2の変形例である液晶表示素子の断面図。

【図5】単純マトリクス駆動用の電極構成例を示す斜視 図、

【図 6 】カイラルネマチック液晶分子の配列を示す説明図。

【図7】フォーカルコニック状態にある液晶分子がプレーナ状態へ変化しにくい場合の説明図。

【図8】フォーカルコニック状態にある液晶分子がプレーナ状態へ変化しやすい場合の一例を示す説明図。

【図9】フォーカルコニック状態にある液晶分子がブレーナ状態へ変化しやすい場合の他の例を示す説明図。

【符号の説明】

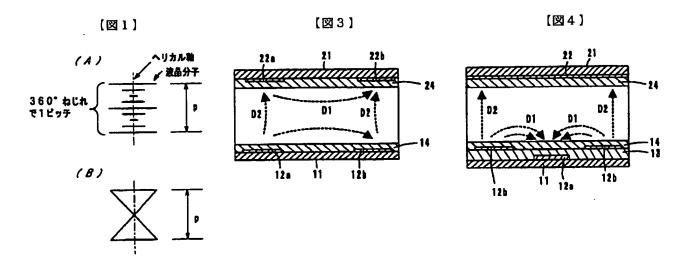
1…液晶表示素子

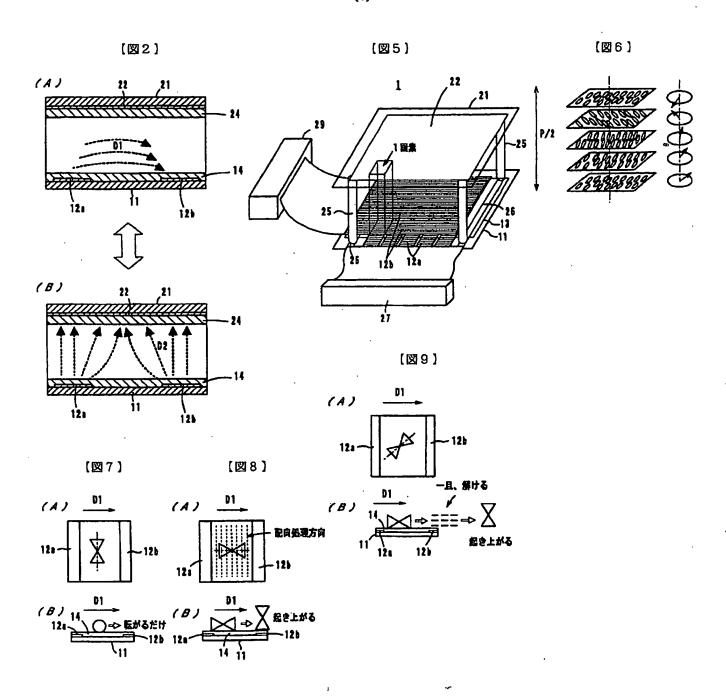
11,21…基板

12, 22…電極

D1…横電界

D2…縦電界





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F ターム(参考) 2H088 CA03 GA17 HA02 HA03 HA06 JA14 JA15 JA22 2H090 KA09 MA01 MA02 MA07 MB01 MB12 2H092 GA14 PA02 PA06 QA11 2H093 NA11 NA21